



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairs of House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

From: Frank L. Perry, Secretary, NC DPS
Gregory K. Baker, Commissioner of Law Enforcement, NC DPS
William Grey, Commander, NC State Highway Patrol

SUBJECT: VIPER Legislative Update

Date: February 1, 2015

Pursuant of Section 16B.5.(b) of Session Law 2013-360, The Department of Public Safety shall report to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on a quarterly basis on the progress of the State's VIPER system.

Network Status – Two hundred forty-one (241) total sites planned for statewide coverage of which two hundred seven (207) sites are constructed and on-the-air representing 86% completion. Three (3) additional sites are fully funded and under construction. Thirty-one (31) sites require funding (\$7M legislative funds began FY-15). Five (5) new sites are being added by counties joining VIPER to increase coverage required by local users. There are currently 71,644 users on the VIPER Network consisting of two hundred seventy-seven (277) Federal, State, and Local Emergency Responding agencies.

P25 Upgrade Status- System conversion to P25 was completed on 25 June 2014 (ahead of schedule). Feedback from end user agencies indicated seamless, painless transition and a non-event for on the street Emergency Responders. Backlog of all pending VIPER ID requests have been cleared with over 6,000 additional radios being added in the first 90 days following the conversion.

Tower Upgrade Status – Fifty-two (52) sites required modifications to the tower structure to accommodate additional microwave dishes in support of the P25 migration. The additional microwave dishes are needed to support the increased network requirements for P25. Tower upgrades needed to support P25 were completed ahead of the June conversion; however, significant costs were incurred due to changes in tower structural standards (ANSI-F standard moved to ANSI-G) prior to funding for P25 being available.

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Procurement and Funding Progress - An additional \$7M recurring commenced 1 July 2014 and will continue until construction of the remaining unfunded tower sites are completed.

Position Management Status - Of the thirteen (13) new positions approved by the Legislature, ten (10) have been hired and interviews for remaining three (3) have been conducted and hiring packets submitted to OSHR.

New Tower Construction Progress - We continue to build the remaining new towers supported by Federal Grant funds. New site activations include Fox Mountain, High Rock Lake and Stanley. Fifteen (15) new sites have been identified for new construction as funding becomes available. No additional site construction from Federal grant dollars is expected due to changes in the performance period for use of federal funding.

P25 Moving Forward – VIPER added over 6,000 new radios to the system in the first 90 days after system conversion to P25 and VIPER continues to add additional radios each month. Additional sites will be coming on line resulting from several new counties joining VIPER and purchasing supplemental sites to improve coverage or to replace coverage lost through changes in some of our current partnership agreements. Additional channels are being added to some sites to balance load and VIPER intends to look hard at locations where counties need to add channels to reduce system busies. Adoption of the P25 digital standard has allowed for additional vendor end-user equipment being available for use on the VIPER system.